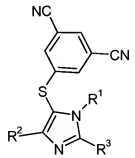
Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A compound of formula (I),



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate, wherein:

R^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said alkyl is optionally substituted by pyridyl or pyridyl N-oxide;

R^2 is C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOR^4$, $-(CH_2)_mOC(O)NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_mNH_2$, or $-(CH_2)_mNHC(O)NH_2$;

R^4 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

m is 1, 2, 3 or 4.

17. (New) A compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R^1 is methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, cyclopropyl, or pyridylmethyl.

18. (New) A compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R^2 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, cyclopropyl, or trifluoromethyl.

19. (New) A compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOR^4$ or $-(CH_2)_mOC(O)NH_2$.

20. (New) A compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R^4 is H.

21. (New) A compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

5-[3,5-Diethyl-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile;

5-[5-Cyclopropyl-3-ethyl-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile;

5-[3-Ethyl-2-hydroxymethyl-5-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile;

5-[3-Ethyl-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile;

Carbamic acid 4-Cyclopropyl-5-(3,5-dicyano-phenylsulfanyl)-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid 5-(3,5-Dicyano-phenylsulfanyl)-1-ethyl-4-isopropyl-1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid 5-(3,5-dicyano-phenylsulfanyl)-1,4-diethyl-1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl ester;

Carbamic acid 5-(3,5-dicyano-phenylsulfanyl)-1-ethyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl ester;

5-[2-Hydroxymethyl-5-isopropyl-3-(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile;

5-[2-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-5-isopropyl-3-methyl-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile; and

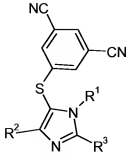
5-[3-Ethyl-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-5-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-ylsulfanyl]-isophthalonitrile;

22. (New) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

23. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, further comprising one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from HIV protease inhibitors, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, CCR5 antagonists, CXCR4 antagonists, integrase inhibitors, fusion inhibitors, and RNaseH inhibitors.

24. (New) A method of treating a mammal infected with HIV, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

25. (New) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I),



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate, wherein:

R^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said alkyl is optionally substituted by pyridyl or pyridyl N-oxide;

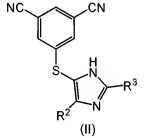
R^2 is C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOR^4$, $-(CH_2)_mOC(O)NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_mNH_2$, or $-(CH_2)_mNHC(O)NH_2$;

R^4 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

m is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

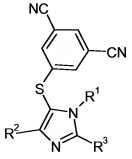
said method comprising alkylating a compound of formula (II),



(II)

wherein R^2 and R^3 are as hereinbefore defined, with a compound of formula with R^1X, wherein R^1 is as hereinbefore defined, and X is selected from halo, -OH, and a suitable leaving group.

26. (New) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I),



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate, wherein:

R^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said alkyl is optionally substituted by pyridyl or pyridyl N-oxide;

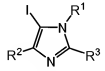
R^2 is C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOR^4$, $-(CH_2)_mOC(O)NH_2$, $-(CH_2)_mNH_2$, or $-(CH_2)_mNHC(O)NH_2$;

R^4 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

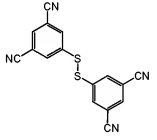
m is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

said method comprising reacting a compound of formula (XIII),

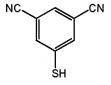


(XIII)

wherein R^1, R^2, and R^3 are as hereinbefore defined, with a compound of formula (IV) or (V),



(IV)



(V)